

Response to OA mailed 9/8/04
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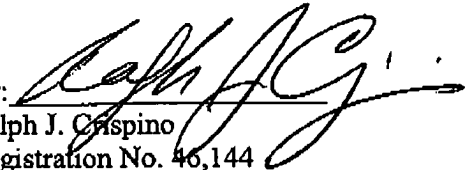
REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application. In light of the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, §102(b) and §103(b) be withdrawn with respect to the pending claims. Claim 10 has been amended to overcome the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With respect to the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-7 and 9-17 variously based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(b), it is respectfully submitted that the claims have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 8. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the originally claimed subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

The amendments herein do not introduce any new matter. It is believed that the claims herein should be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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